



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

JOHN G. ROWLAND
GOVERNOR

MARY M. HEFFERNAN
COMMISSIONER

November 4, 2002

Sue Gianotti
Operations Manager
Greater Waterbury Imaging Center
68 Robbins Street
Waterbury, Connecticut 06708

Re: Final Decision, Docket Number 02-1511
Greater Waterbury Imaging Center
Replacement of a MRI Unit

Dear Ms. Gianotti:

On October 25, 2002, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your letter requesting a waiver of the Certificate of Need ("CON") process in accordance with Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."). The Greater Waterbury Imaging Center ("GWIC") is proposing to replace its existing magnetic resonance imaging ("MRI") unit at a projected capital expenditure of \$1,171,120.

Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed the information submitted, and makes the following findings regarding your request:

1. On April 1, 1999, under Docket Number 98-1004, the GWIC was authorized to acquire an open MRI unit at a total capital expenditure of \$1,224,300.
2. The GWIC is proposing to replace its existing open MRI with the purchase of a high-field wide-open MRI unit. The replacement equipment will be a 1.5T GE Echosped unit.
3. The GWIC has been providing MRI services to the Greater Waterbury-area since 1989. The project is intended to serve the following municipalities: Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Southbury, Southington, Torrington, Waterbury, Watertown, and Wolcott.

4. The total capital expenditure associated with the MRI replacement project is \$1,171,120. The cost components are as follows: \$142,800 for construction/renovations; \$964,453 for the imaging equipment purchase; \$57,867 for sales tax; and \$6,000 for delivery and installation. Project financing will be via the GWIC's equity, as well as a conventional loan. The total expenditure of \$1,171,120 is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.
5. The proposed expenditure for the replacement MRI unit is not more than the original cost, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since April 1, 1999.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the GWIC's proposal to replace its existing open MRI with a high-field wide-open 1.5T GE Echospeed unit meets the requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. Therefore, the Greater Waterbury Imaging Center's proposal to replace its existing MRI unit, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,171,120, is approved and a Certificate of Need is granted. Additionally, GWIC will provide to OHCA evidence of the disposition of the existing MRI unit by no later than May 30, 2003.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Laura Jaworski at OHCA at 860/418-7071.

Sincerely,

Signed by:
Mary M. Heffernan
Commissioner

cc: Rose McLellan, DHSR, DPH

MMH: lj